

4-H MEETINGS

21 What happens at meetings?

4-H clubs usually do five general kinds of things: project work, conduct business meetings, recreation or social activities, community service work, and special interest programs.

22 Are all of these things done at one meeting?

Sometimes they have a little business meeting, work on their projects for a while, then have recreation. Occasionally the whole meeting is devoted to one thing. For example, members may bring their dog, practice obedience training, or they might elect officers and plan the club program, have a pizza-making party, or tour a local business. Variety is important.

23 Who plans the program for the club?

Members of the club. This might be done at a meeting of the club or ideas are collected and a committee puts together a program.

24 When do clubs meet and how long do they last?

This depends on the group. Many clubs meet for an hour or two after school, in the evening or on the weekend. The most important thing is to have a regular time to get together.

4-H PROJECTS

25 What are 4-H projects?

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences for 4-H members. More than 40 projects are available in the Missouri 4-H program. Most projects have manuals to assist the 4-H leader and member with his or her project.

26 What is a 4-H project manual?

A project manual contains help and direction needed to complete the project. Some projects have a manual for each division. Others have one manual which is used for several years.

27 What does a 4-H project cost?

It varies. A member enrolled in crafts might use supplies from around the home to practice the skills he or she is learning and have no additional expense. A member who buys and keeps a horse might invest hundreds of dollars. Members should consider cost as they select a project. It should be realistic to the family situation.

28 Are 4-H members expected to do their own project work?

Yes -- with help. 4-H is a "learn by doing" program. Leaders, youth leaders, and parents may tell or show a member how, but members are expected to learn to do things themselves. One of the principles of 4-H is that allowing a youth to learn to do builds self worth.

29 Are projects done individually or as a club?

Both. Some projects like geology or biking are more fun when done as a group. Others like making a dress or baking cookies will be done individually by each member of the group.

30 What is an exhibit?

An exhibit is an object or display designed to help a member show what he or she has accomplished. Ideally it motivates youth to learn and to have fun in a 4-H project. An exhibit is not an end in itself, nor does it measure all the learning that takes place from completing a project. Projects are judged and displayed at local, county and state fairs.

4-H PARENTS

31 What should parents know about 4-H leaders ?

It is important to understand that leaders are volunteers who are not being paid. Parents should attend 4-H meetings or volunteer to help with a meeting or activity so they can see how leaders work with the club members.

32 How do you get parents to help?

Ask them. Be specific about jobs the club needs help with. Think positively. People who ask for help usually get it. Offer a choice of jobs as parents can provide different amounts of time and abilities. Ask the young people to ask their parents to help.

33 As a 4-H parent, how can I help my child?

Counsel your child in the selection of 4-H projects that are interesting and can be conveniently financed. Continue to show interest and enthusiasm after the projects have been selected. Help your child understand what to do, when to do it, and how to carry out the various phases of the project. Assist your son or daughter with project work, but don't do the project for him or her. Your job is to teach, not govern; to guide, not control. Learn to give increased freedom as your child's skills develop.

Adapted from "33 Most Frequently Asked Questions...", Carol Gehrs, 4-H Youth Specialist, Cass County, Missouri

Websites of Interest:

Missouri 4-H Center for Youth Development

<http://4h.missouri.edu/>

National 4-H Council

<http://4-h.org/>



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33
most frequently
asked questions
about 4-H and
4-H clubs.....



... if you want to know how to join, organize, sponsor, or lead a 4-H club, read the answers to these questions and contact the University of Missouri Extension Center in Webster County at 417-859-2044 or email websterco@missouri.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
The logo for the University of Missouri Extension, featuring a stylized 'M' in a square followed by the word 'Extension' in a large, serif font.

1 What is 4-H?

4-H is a volunteer-led organization that reaches boys and girls through small groups called clubs and sometimes in classrooms. 4-H members decide for themselves which of more than 40 projects they want to learn more about. Most projects use hands-on learning experiences to teach subject matter and life-skills such as cooperation, leadership, and decision-making. These skills can be applied over and over for a lifetime.

2 What do the H's stand for?

Head, Heart, Hands, and Health.

The 4-H Pledge --

"I Pledge . . .

My head to clearer thinking

My heart to greater loyalty

My hands to larger service

My health to better living

For my club, my community, my country, and my world. "

3 What is the 4-H Emblem?

A green four-leaf clover with a white "H" on each clover leaf.

4 Why do young people like 4-H?

They have FUN with friends at meetings, social activities, tours, trips, camps, and fairs. They learn to do interesting things such as take care of animals and plants, redecorate their rooms, fix their bikes, take pictures, practice cooking, and collect rocks. And, they help others to learn more about their 4-H projects, provide leadership to younger members, as well as serve others through community service activities.

5 Who can join 4-H?

4-H is for boys and girls who will reach their 8th birthday and will not reach their 19th birthday by January 1st of the current year. It is open to everyone, regardless of race, religion, color, disability, gender, or place of residence. Most Missouri County 4-H programs offer a pre-4-H program called Clover Kids for youth 5-7 years of age.

6 How do you join?

Call your University of Missouri Extension Center or a local 4-H leader (if you know one) to see if there is room in a club near you. If not, several interested young people with an adult or two to help may start a new club. Check with the Extension Center to find out what projects and activities are available.

7 Who provides leadership?

4-H in Missouri is sponsored by University of Missouri Extension, University of Missouri and Lincoln University. Nationally, it is part of the Extension Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Local leadership is provided by 4-H Youth specialists and assistants in the county offices of University of Missouri Extension and supported financially by county, state, and federal tax dollars.

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4-H CLUBS

8 How do you organize a 4-H group?

Have a meeting with the young people who are interested and the adults who are willing to help. Publicize it through the school or any place where young people and their parents can be reached.

9 Who names a club?

The members of the club -- with guidance from their leader and 4-H youth specialist.

10 What happens at the first meeting?

Get acquainted and have fun with a group mixer and/or some refreshments. Show and talk about some projects the group might like. (Give this some thought in advance and invite the 4-H Youth Specialist or an experienced 4-H leader.) Discuss when, where, and how often the group will meet.

11 Where do 4-H clubs meet?

Any place is acceptable if it is large enough and is convenient for the members of the group. Some clubs meet in leaders' or members' homes. Some meet in a central location such as a community room school or church.

12 How often do 4-H clubs meet?

Some clubs meet every month year round and others meet every week for a month or two. This depends on the needs and desires of the group. 4-H clubs organize between September and December of each year. 4-H members are encouraged to be enrolled by December 31st of the current project year.

13 Should 4-H clubs have dues?

Many 4-H Clubs charge minimal annual dues. A portion pays the State and/or County dues. The remainder is used for club activities and community service projects. Clubs may conduct fundraisers to supplement their programming needs. Dues cannot be used as a barrier to keep someone from joining 4-H.

14 What about officers?

4-H clubs elect officers and whatever committees they need to conduct their business. 4-H has instructional materials available for presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, news reporters, recreation leaders, historians,

song and game leaders. The club may have any number of officers, depending on its needs. It is a good idea to wait until the second or third meeting to elect officers so members know each other better.

15 How big should a club be?

This depends on the age of the members, the space available for their meetings, and the leadership available. The ideal club is big enough to have fun together, but small enough for everybody to feel a part of the group. The average club in Missouri has 10 to 20 members and two or three leaders.

LEADERS

16 What is a 4-H leader?

An adult who works voluntarily with a group of 4-H members.

17 Are there different kinds of leaders?

Yes. Some adults teach members how to do things and are called "project leaders". They usually have a special interest or skill such as photography, clothing or gardening. Adults who help a group get organized and run its meetings are called "organizational leaders.". Can the same person be a project and an organizational leader? Sure -- if they have the time and interest. Sometimes big clubs divide these jobs and have several project leaders and youth leaders to meet all the interests of 4-H members.

18 Who are youth leaders?

Youth leaders are older 4-H members who usually work under direct supervision of an adult leader to assist with a project or special club activity.

19 How many leaders should a 4-H club have?

That depends on the size of the club and the ages of its members. 4-H guidelines suggest a minimum of two leaders per club. Clubs with an enrollment of 40 or more members have three to five leaders to share the workload and give individual attention to members.

20 Where do I learn how to be a 4-H leader?

Your main help would come from the county University of Missouri Extension Center. The 4-H Youth staff can discuss with you your interest in working with youth and your previous experience. Volunteers are expected to follow the Volunteer Code of Conduct at <http://4h.missouri.edu/doc/vol-code-of-conduct.pdf>, which includes a Youth Protection Policy. Missouri 4-H provides safe environments for everyone involved in youth activities.